



**97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2011 and 2012**

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

**SC0049**

Introduced 2/8/2012, by Sen. Thomas Johnson

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 2

ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 5

Proposes to amend the Legislature Article of the Illinois Constitution. Provides that, beginning in 2022, in each ten-year period, Senators shall be divided into two groups. Provides that Senators in the first group shall first be elected for terms of 6 years and then for terms of 4 years. Provides that Senators in the other group shall first be elected for terms of 4 years and then for terms of 6 years. Provides that, beginning in 2022, Representatives shall first be elected for terms of 4 years, then for terms of 2 years, and then for terms of 4 years. Provides that the General Assembly shall be a continuous body for a period beginning and ending at noon on the second Wednesday of January of consecutive odd-numbered years. Specifies that Representatives elected in 2012 shall serve two-year terms and that Representatives elected in 2014 and 2018 shall serve four-year terms. Specifies that Senators elected in 2014 shall serve two-year terms and that Senators elected in 2016 shall serve six-year terms. Effective upon being declared adopted. Applies to the election of General Assembly members in 2014 and thereafter; does not affect the terms of members elected before 2014.

LRB097 19456 JDS 64709 e

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION  
2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
5 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the  
6 electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general  
7 election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of  
8 this resolution a proposition to amend Sections 2 and 5 of  
9 Article IV of the Illinois Constitution as follows:

10 ARTICLE IV  
11 THE LEGISLATURE

12 (ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 2)

13 SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE COMPOSITION

14 (a) One Senator shall be elected from each Legislative  
15 District. Senators elected in 2014 shall serve two-year terms.  
16 Senators elected in 2016 shall serve six-year terms.  
17 Immediately following each decennial redistricting, the  
18 General Assembly by law shall divide the Legislative Districts  
19 as equally as possible into two ~~three~~ groups. During each  
20 ten-year period, beginning with the general election in 2022,  
21 Senators from one group shall first be elected for terms of six  
22 years and then for terms of four years ~~four years, four years~~  
23 ~~and two years;~~ Senators from the second group, for terms of  
24 ~~four years, two years and four years;~~ and Senators from the

1 other third group shall first be elected, for terms of ~~two~~  
2 ~~years,~~ four years and then for terms of six ~~four~~ years. The  
3 Legislative Districts in each group shall be distributed  
4 substantially equally over the State.

5 (b) Each Legislative District shall be divided into two  
6 Representative Districts. ~~In 1982 and every two years~~  
7 ~~thereafter~~ One Representative shall be elected from each  
8 Representative District ~~for a term of two years.~~  
9 Representatives elected in 2012 shall serve two-year terms.  
10 Representatives elected in 2014 shall serve four-year terms.  
11 Representatives elected in 2018 shall serve 4 year terms.  
12 During each ten-year period, beginning with the general  
13 election in 2022, Representatives shall first be elected for  
14 terms of four years, then for terms of two years, and then for  
15 terms of four years.

16 (c) To be eligible to serve as a member of the General  
17 Assembly, a person must be a United States citizen, at least 21  
18 years old, and for the two years preceding his election or  
19 appointment a resident of the district which he is to  
20 represent. In the general election following a redistricting, a  
21 candidate for the General Assembly may be elected from any  
22 district which contains a part of the district in which he  
23 resided at the time of the redistricting and reelected if a  
24 resident of the new district he represents for 18 months prior  
25 to reelection.

26 (d) Within thirty days after a vacancy occurs, it shall be

1 filled by appointment as provided by law. If the vacancy is in  
2 a Senatorial office with more than twenty-eight months  
3 remaining in the term, the appointed Senator shall serve until  
4 the next general election, at which time a Senator shall be  
5 elected to serve for the remainder of the term. If the vacancy  
6 is in a Representative office or in any other Senatorial  
7 office, the appointment shall be for the remainder of the term.  
8 An appointee to fill a vacancy shall be a member of the same  
9 political party as the person he succeeds.

10 (e) No member of the General Assembly shall receive  
11 compensation as a public officer or employee from any other  
12 governmental entity for time during which he is in attendance  
13 as a member of the General Assembly.

14 No member of the General Assembly during the term for which  
15 he was elected or appointed shall be appointed to a public  
16 office which shall have been created or the compensation for  
17 which shall have been increased by the General Assembly during  
18 that term.

19 (Source: Amendment adopted at general election November 4,  
20 1980.)

21 (ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 5)

22 SECTION 5. SESSIONS

23 (a) The General Assembly shall convene each year on the  
24 second Wednesday of January. The General Assembly shall be a  
25 continuous body for a period beginning and ending at noon on

1 the second Wednesday of January of consecutive odd-numbered  
2 years. ~~during the term for which members of the House of~~  
3 ~~Representatives are elected.~~

4 (b) The Governor may convene the General Assembly or the  
5 Senate alone in special session by a proclamation stating the  
6 purpose of the session; and only business encompassed by such  
7 purpose, together with any impeachments or confirmation of  
8 appointments shall be transacted. Special sessions of the  
9 General Assembly may also be convened by joint proclamation of  
10 the presiding officers of both houses, issued as provided by  
11 law.

12 (c) Sessions of each house of the General Assembly and  
13 meetings of committees, joint committees and legislative  
14 commissions shall be open to the public. Sessions and committee  
15 meetings of a house may be closed to the public if two-thirds  
16 of the members elected to that house determine that the public  
17 interest so requires; and meetings of joint committees and  
18 legislative commissions may be so closed if two-thirds of the  
19 members elected to each house so determine.

20 (Source: Illinois Constitution.)

21 SCHEDULE

22 This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being  
23 declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois  
24 Constitutional Amendment Act and applies to the election of  
25 members of the General Assembly in 2014 and thereafter. It does

1 not affect the terms of members elected before 2014.